

Working Lands Enterprise Fund

STANDARD BUSINESS GRANTS

FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2022

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Working Lands Enterprise Fund (WLEF) supports, grows, and sustains Vermont's entrepreneurs by providing financial assistance to the agricultural and forestry industries to allow them to innovate and grow.

In FY22, the Vermont State Legislature and Governor Scott appropriated \$5.3 million to WLEF. Of these funds, \$500,000 was allocated for grants related to slaughter, meat processing, and meat processing training proposals. With these funds, WLEF investments have been able to:

- focus on priority sectors, including grant opportunities for meat slaughter & processing and producer associations.
- scale up impact investments to focus on value-added agriculture and secondary grade wood and forest-based products.
- improve business viability by funding equipment automation, local sourcing and supply chain connections, and energy transformation.

STANDARD BUSINESS GRANTS

Awards between \$10,000 - \$25,000 have been granted to farm, food, and forest businesses that enhance:

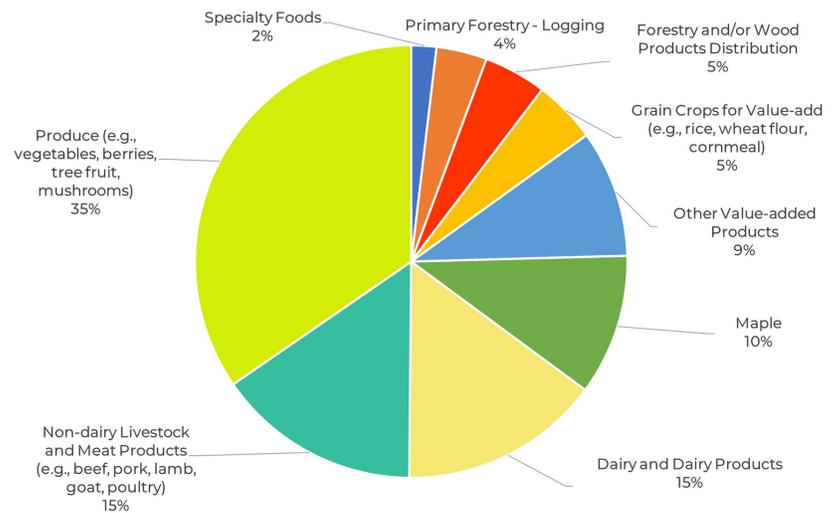
- Infrastructure improvements
- Research & design and product development
- Market development, marketing plans and/or sales strategy)
- Organizational development for procurement and pricing management

FY22 STANDARD BUSINESS FUNDED GRANTS

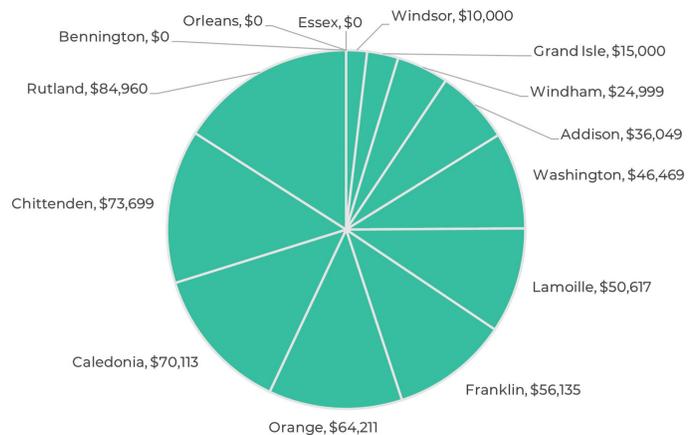
FY22 awarded projects will support a variety of businesses, including farms, forestry enterprises, packaged food producers, vineyards, retail market, and agritourism expansion projects.

- 41% of applications funded
- \$532,252 total funded of \$1,299,318 requested
- \$635,706 contributed in matching funds

FY22 GRANTEE SECTOR TYPES



FY22 AWARDED FUNDS BY COUNTY



\$1,299,318

Funds Requested
From 65 Businesses

65

Applicants

28

Projects Funded

\$532,252

Investments Awarded
for FY22 Standard
Business Grant